



Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

City of Minneapolis, MN

BACKGROUND

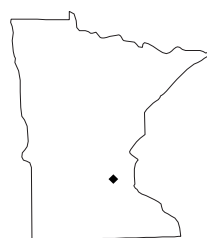
EPA awarded the City of Minneapolis supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. The project area (population 49,100) is in the federally designated Minneapolis Empowerment Zone (EZ). Once a major commercial and service center for Minneapolis and the surrounding northern communities, the project area now includes half of the state's hazardous waste generators and 88 percent of its tax-forfeited properties. Sixty percent of the EZ residents are minorities and 60 percent of the area children live in poverty.

The original Pilot targeted five orphaned sites in the EZ, which were given low priority due to size, location, and level of perceived pollution. The assessment process has been completed at three sites (Snelling, Bloomington, and Garfield) and redevelopment plans are being carried out. Two sites (East 26th Street and Lowry Avenue), where contamination was found to be more extensive than anticipated, need additional testing. Two of the original Pilot sites will be redeveloped into affordable housing: one is to become a mixed-use development with a housing component, and another has been designated to be a community garden until a suitable development proposal is accepted.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The city's goal is to strengthen Minneapolis' economic stability and revitalize its most impoverished neighborhoods. The supplemental assistance will be used to complete testing and redevelopment planning for the East 26th Street and Lowry Avenue sites, conduct testing on three new vacant sites strongly suspected of being contaminated within the EZ, expand community involvement activities, and create a brownfields website to share information with the community.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Minneapolis,
Minnesota*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 150,000

Greenspace: \$ 50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets five brownfields sites within the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment and an additional two sites for potential reuse as neighborhood parks.

Contacts:

Minneapolis Community
Development Agency
(612) 673-5193

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA Region 5
(312) 886-3058

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

The greenspace funding will be used to investigate two sites within the Minneapolis EZ. The 29th Avenue South site will be transformed into a neighborhood park connecting the Longfellow neighborhood to the new Midtown Greenway, which spans the width of the city along a historic railroad line. The Central Avenue NE site will be transformed into a unique pocket park featuring local sculptures.

Activities planned as part of the Pilot include:

- Completing additional testing at the East 26th Street and Lowry Avenue sites;
- Conducting Phase I and II site assessments, redevelopment and remedial action planning for the three newly identified properties;
- Conducting environmental site assessments at two city-owned sites (29th Avenue South and Central Avenue NE) for greenspace reuse;
- Continuing building on previous brownfields pilot community involvement efforts; and
- Creating a brownfields website.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.